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July 20, 2018

Mr. Thomas Hicks, Chair  
U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Commissioner Hicks,

I appreciate your dedication to protecting voting as the most fundamental part of our Democracy and am encouraged to hear that following the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, signed into law on March 23, 2018, the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) acted swiftly to award my home state of Arizona an award of \$7,463,675 in Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding. Unfortunately, I am concerned that these funds have not yet been distributed by the Secretary of State's office in Arizona, and that the same has occurred in other states around the country.

While the timing of fund disbursement is determined by states and localities, I request that EAC provide guidance to states detailing the timeframe necessary to distribute funds in order to improve and safeguard the 2018 election. This is especially important in light of ongoing foreign interference concerns. Nothing is more fundamental to America's democracy than the right of its citizens to vote. If we are to ensure that every American can vote and have that vote counted on Election Day, then it is imperative that the Secretary of State's office fulfill its role in distributing the funding necessary to make this possible. As the 2018 mid-term elections are fast approaching, it is imperative that this funding be distributed in a timely manner.

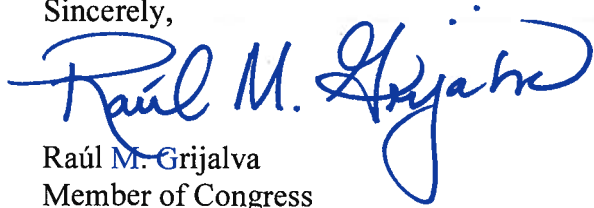
Every year, agencies such as Arizona Center for Disability Law, the federally-designated protection and advocacy system for Arizona, utilizes HAVA funding to complete multiple projects that advocate for greater access to Arizona's voting systems for people with disabilities. This includes projects such as poll-worker training covering topics like procedures regarding voters with disabilities, how to operate accessible voting equipment at polling sites, obligations regarding accommodations under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Arizona Civil Rights Act, and general disability etiquette.

The EAC grant that Arizona and other states will be receiving represents a tremendous opportunity to make the voting process safer and more accessible for all people, including those



with disabilities and historically disenfranchised, such as Native American populations. I believe that further guidance to states encouraging swift implementation and distribution of funds will ensure these newly established funds serve their intended purpose.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Cc: Brian Newby, Executive Director, EAC  
Cliff Tatum, General Counsel, EAC